

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a gas station supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:

a) a supply chain system computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent gas station outlets of a gas station franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to comprising the completed sale amounts of gas station goods and services by the independent gas station outlets which completed sale amounts are not generated by sales via the network, each of the independent gas station outlets utilizing at least one associated independent gas station distributor and independent gas station supplier, and wherein the data is provided at the sole discretion of the respective independent gas station outlets;

b) a supply chain computer parsing the data from a plurality of the independent gas station outlets by the at least one independent gas station distributor and the at least one independent gas station supplier associated with the independent gas station outlets supplying the data;

c) generating an electronic order form based on the parsed data for ordering gas station goods and services from a-the at least one independent gas station distributor associated with one of the respective independent gas station outlets supplying the data of the gas station supply chain;

d) transmitting the parsed data to the independent gas station distributor associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received of the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the network;

e) transmitting the parsed data to a-the independent gas station supplier associated with the one of the gas station outlets from which the data was received of the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the network; and

f) the supply chain system computer of the independent supply chain manager forecasting aggregated activity in the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the data;

g) sending the electronic order form to the at least one independent gas station distributor associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received; and

h) the supply chain computer of the independent supply chain manager providing electronic access via the network to the forecast to the at least one independent gas station distributor and the at least one independent gas station supplier associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received only after identity verification.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the data is made accessible to the gas station outlets, the gas station distributor, the gas station supplier via a network-based interface.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the gas station outlets, the gas station distributor, and the gas station supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a gas station supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:

an electronic storage; and

a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic elements

a) logic for a supply chain system computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent gas station outlets of a gas station franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data ~~relating to~~ comprising the completed sale amounts of gas station goods and services by the independent gas station outlets which completed sale amounts are not generated by sales via the network, each of the independent gas station outlets utilizing at least one associated independent gas station distributor and independent gas station supplier, and wherein the data is provided at the sole discretion of the respective independent gas station outlets;

b) logic for parsing the data from a plurality of the independent gas station outlets by the at least one independent gas station distributor and the at least one independent gas station supplier associated with the independent gas station outlets supplying the data;

c) logic for generating an electronic order form based on the parsed data for ordering gas station goods and services from ~~a~~ the at least one independent gas station distributor associated with one of the respective independent gas station outlets supplying the data of the gas station supply chain;

d) logic for transmitting the parsed data to the independent gas station distributor associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received of the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the network;

e) logic for transmitting the parsed data to ~~at~~ the independent gas station supplier associated with the one of the gas station outlets from which the data was received of the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the network; ~~and~~

f) logic for the supply chain system computer of the independent supply chain manager forecasting aggregated activity in the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the data;

g) logic for sending the electronic order form to the at least one independent gas station distributor associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received; and

h) logic for the supply chain computer of the independent supply chain manager providing electronic access via the network to the forecast to the at least one independent gas station distributor and the at least one independent gas station supplier associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received only after identity verification.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8~~7~~, wherein the data is made accessible to the gas station outlets, the gas station distributor, the gas station supplier via a network-based interface.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the gas station outlets, the gas station distributor, and the gas station supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

13. (Currently amended) A computer program product for managing a gas station supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:

a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable code comprising

a) computer code for a supply chain system computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent gas station outlets of a gas station franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data ~~relating to~~ comprising the completed sale amounts of gas station goods and services by the independent gas station outlets which completed sale amounts are not generated

by sales via the network, each of the independent gas station outlets utilizing at least one associated independent gas station distributor and independent gas station supplier, and wherein the data is provided at the sole discretion of the respective independent gas station outlets;

b) computer code for parsing the data from a plurality of the independent gas station outlets by the at least one independent gas station distributor and the at least one independent gas station supplier associated with the independent gas station outlets supplying the data;

c) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the parsed data for ordering gas station goods and services from a-the at least one independent gas station distributor associated with one of the respective independent gas station outlets supplying the data of the gas station supply chain;

d) computer code for transmitting the parsed data to the independent gas station distributor associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received of the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the network;

e) computer code for transmitting the parsed data to a-the independent gas station supplier associated with the one of the gas station outlets from which the data was received of the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the network; and

f) computer code for the supply chain system computer of the independent supply chain manager forecasting aggregated activity in the gas station franchise supply chain utilizing the data;

g) computer code for sending the electronic order form to the at least one independent gas station distributor associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received; and

h) computer code for the supply chain computer of the independent supply chain manager providing electronic access via the network to the forecast to the at least one independent gas station distributor and the at least one

independent gas station supplier associated with the one of the independent gas station outlets from which the data was received only after identity verification.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the data is made accessible to the gas station outlets, the gas station distributor, the gas station supplier via a network-based interface.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the gas station outlets, the gas station distributor, and the gas station supplier each forecast utilizing the data.